

Love Can Build a Bridge

It's November, and I can't help but worry about the state of our world. There have just been so many recent horrific events that have been packed so closely together. We have watched in horror as Las Vegas, New York and Texas have experienced the devastation of lives ended and families torn apart for no rational reason. The oh so many news outlets have played out these events over and over to the point that there is nothing left to the imagination. Yet, isn't it amazing how quickly we forget the latest tragedy as we become immune to the senseless violence that exists in our world. It makes me wonder, how can we stop this cycle? How can we make our world better for our children and their children?



As I sat contemplating this darkness, life decided to turn my point of view upside down by playing a song on the radio called "Love Can Build a Bridge." This beautiful song by The Judds has lyrics that are simple, strong, and true.

*"I'd gladly walk across the desert
With no shoes upon my feet
To share with you the last bite
Of bread I had to eat
I would swim out to save you
In your sea of broken dreams
When all your hopes are sinkin'
Let me show you what love means*

*Love can build a bridge
Between your heart and mine
Love can build a bridge
Don't you think it's time
Don't you think it's time*

Wow, what a powerful message that holds a great lesson for all of us. I think about my own family and how we can be so great together. Sometimes we work together as a team and cherish the moments we have. There are other times when lack of sleep, stress or just being a teenager or working adult can wear us down and fray the connections that tie us together. These are the moments I end up reflexively raising my voice with my son who has just rolled his eyes at me for the eighteenth time, in combination with a heavy sigh and shake of his head. Off we go into conflict, further off course and feeling less connected.

I know from experience that when I stop and take a breath, and either listen to or force a hug on him we get back on track so much quicker. Our community needs us all to take that collective deep breath so we can find a perspective that will allow us to react with kindness rather than angry words. If we could make this our mantra - starting in little old Manitowoc it could radiate out into the great big world faster than Charlie Berens spread "The Manitowoc Minute". "Oh my Gosh! Keep 'er movin!"

So this Thanksgiving, while you count your blessings think about how you can spread your love to others. Send a note to a friend, share a smile or a hug, give a compliment, invite someone to dinner. Have patience with

your spouse, coworkers, and even with the person driving ahead of you going slower than the speed limit. Take time to notice when someone needs to talk and then just listen. It's amazing how just a few minutes of our time can make someone's day. Acts of love no matter how small, make a difference. Together we can make a difference.

*I would whisper love so loudly
Every heart could understand
That love and only love
Can join the tribes of man
I would give my heart's desire
So that you might see
The first step is to realize
That it all begins with you and me*

*Love can build a bridge
Between your heart and mine
Love can build a bridge
Don't you think it's time
Don't you think it's time*

Each one of us possesses an incredible power in our capacity to love.

Use this power to spread your love and build a bridge.

Peace and Love,
Stephanie Simmons

November, 2017

Question/Comment on Article? lightly.salted@sfamanitowoc.com



*601 N. 8th St., Manitowoc, WI. 54220
920-684-3718
www.sfamanitowoc.org
parish e-mail: info@sfamanitowoc.com*